

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 01408 220731Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----017486 220732Z /17

R 220600Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6318

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T MANAMA 1408

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, AF, ZP, BA

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

REF: STATE 153167

1. FOREIGN MINISTER LISTENED ON JUNE 19 TO POINTS I
MADE FROM REFTEL WITH WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS RELIEF.
HE SAID HE AND OTHERS IN AREA HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT
USG WAS NOT TAKING SERIOUSLY ENOUGH EVENTS AND TRENDS
IN REGION WHICH HE FELT WERE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. HE
SAID SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITY IN THE HORN, GROWING CLIENT-
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SECRET

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PATRON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PDRY AND SOVIETS AND
COMMUNIST COUP IN KABUL ALL SEEMED TO HIM MORE THAN
COINCIDENTAL.

2. FONMIN CONTINUED THAT HE AGREED WITH OUR VIEW THAT
AFGHANS HISTORICALLY HAVE BEEN JEALOUS OF THEIR
INDEPENDENCE BUT HE WONDERED IF AVERAGE AFGHAN WOULD

HAVE A CHOICE AFTER SOVIETS AND KABUL REGIME HAVE COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNIST-TOTALITARIAN STATE APPRATUS. REVERTING TO THEME HE HAS STRESSED IN PAST, FONMIN SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT SOVIET FAILURE WITH "ALLIES" LIKE EGYPTIANS AND SOMALIS IS LEADING THEM TO SEEK MORE RELIABLE PARTNERS -- PUPPETS. FONMIN CONTINUED THAT PDRY SEEMS ON VERGE OF REACHING THIS STATUS AND KABUL REGIME IS ONLY A FEW STEPS AWAY.

3. FONMIN SAID HE AGREED WITH USG THAT THERE ARE REAL ELEMENTS OF STABILITY IN GULF RELATIONSHIPS, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN IRAN AND GULF ARABS, THAT DID NOT EXIST A FEW YEARS AGO. HE AGREED AS WELL -- AND INDEED HAD URGED IN RECENT TRIPS WITH AMIR TO IRAN AND PRIME MINISTER TO UAE -- THAT GULF STATES SHOULD SOLIDIFY THESE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN ORDER FOR THEM BETTER TO PROTECT THEIR COMMON INTERESTS IN THE WIDER REGION. HE CONCLUDED BY, AGAIN, EXPRESSING HIS RELIEF THAT USG IS NOT ONLY "WATCHING SITUATION" BUT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING STEPS IT MIGHT TAKE -- SUCH AS INCREASING SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN -- AND IS SHARING ITS VIEWS WITH ITS FRIENDS.

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